महतावनक्षत्रमाला

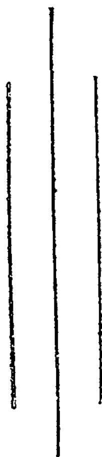


उत्कलवाचस्पतिः

प्रोफेसर् गौरीकुमारब्रह्मा (कविकोकिलः)

माउसीमामन्दिरनिकटम्, पो०, भुवनेश्वर-२ (ओडिशा-India)

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Name of the book :

Mahataaba-Nakshatramaalaa
(in Sanskrit)

Author : *(Address)*

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(Orissa)

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Dr. H. K. Mahatab

PREFACE

This Poem of 27 verses entitled, the "Mahataaba Nakshatramaalaa" presents a picture of Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab who was one of the greatest personalities of modern Orissa. He was a great political leader a great Freedom Fighter, a great diplomat, a great historian, a great administrator, a great social worker, a great builder of institutions and organisations, a great educationist, a great journalist, a great patron of art and culture, a great litterateur, and creative writer and a multi-dimensional personality, ever prepared to confront any situation in life with admirable tact and courage.

A "Nakshatramaalaa" is a poem of 27 verses, just as a "Satakam" is a poem of 100 verses and a 'Panchaasikaa' is a poem of 50 verses. My 'Nakshatramaalaa" on Utkala-Mani Gopabandhu Dash has been released to the market and I hope, the simplicity of the language will attract the readers to a great extent.

I am thankful to Sri Bhartruhari Mahatab, the Editor of the Prajatantra for his having favoured me with a copy of the biodata of Dr. Mahatab which has been given separately to enable the readers to appreciate the details of the slokas.

Prof. G. K. Brahma

DEDICATION

I dedicate my poem, 'The Mahataba Nakshatramaalaa' to ***Sri Biju Pattanayak*** Orissa's eminent leader and a close associate of Dr. H. K. Mahatab in matters pertaining to the socio-economic resurgence of Orissa.

Prof. G. K. BRAHMA

DR. HAREKRUSHNA MAHATAB

(BIODATA)

1) Born on the 21st November, 1899 at Agarpada a village in the coastal district of Balasore in Orissa. Sri Krushna Charan Das was his father.

2) Was later adopted by his maternal grand-father, Jagannath Mahatab, the Raja of Agarpada. Married Smt. Subhadra Devi, who also joined the freedom movement with her husband and imprisoned. She breathed her last in 1975.

3) Passed Matriculation in 1st division under Patna University in 1917 from Bhadrak High school. Joined Revenshaw college, Cuttack to study Science. After I. Sc. he switched over to Arts. He left college before the final B. A. examination to join the freedom movement in 1921 at the call of Gandhiji.

4) Took active part in the freedom movement and was imprisoned in 1921, 1930, 1932 and finally in the 'Quit India movement' in 1942 and was detained in the Ahmednagar Fort along with Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, J. B. Kripalini and others for 2 years and menths.

5) He was implicated in the Bazelgate murder case of Ranpur, a small princely state of Orissa and

was about to be hanged but for Gandhiji's escapeal interference through Miss Agatha Harrison. escapec miraeulously.

6) He was elected Chairman of Balasore District Board in 1924. During that period, The Prajatantra was published (from Balasore as a weekly which published 'news regarding the freedom movement. Gandhiji's views and oppression of different princely States, specially, Kanika estate. During this period, The Prajatantra came under the wrath of the Raja Bahadur of Kanika and the Raja of Nilagiri. Subsequently, the press was closed down by the British authorities.

7) This paper, however, became the most popular medium to express the national ideas of Orissa's Congress leaders. In 1938, he became the President of the Utkal Pradesh Congress Committee.

8) When Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was elected President of the National Congress, Mr. Mahatab was taken in as a Member of the Working Committee.

9) Mr. Mahatab became the premier of Orissa in 1946 and continued as such till April 1950, when he was elevated to the position of a Cabinet Minister at the centre with Trade and Commerce as his portfolios and Continued till 1952.

10) He headed a delegation which represented India in the Commonwealth meeting held in London.

11) During his premiership and as a member of the Congress Working Committee, he convinced the Cabinet Mission for the total amalgamation of the princely states and carried it through after independence with the help of Sardar Patel.

12) He was elected to the Parliament in 1952 and became the Secretary-General of the Congress Parliamentary party in which capacity he continued till 1954. During this period, he visited U. K., France, U. S. A. and Japan.

13) He was appointed Governor of the undivided Bombay in the year 1955 and continued till 1956.

14) Mr. Mahatab again became the Chief Minister of Orissa in October, 1956 and continued till 1961.

15) He left Congress in 1967 to form the Jana-Congress.

16) He was elected to the Orissa Legislative Assembly in 1971 and 1974.

17) He had the wrath of the Government in free India in 1975 during the Emergency for his forceful writings and was imprisoned for eighteen months.

18) He was conferred with the honorary Ph. D. by the Andhra University for his contributions to the History of Orissa

19) He was also honoured with the honorary Ph.D by the Utkal and the Sauger Universities later.

20) In 1962, he was elected to the Loksabha uncontested and was elected as the Deputy Leader of the Congress Parliamentary party.

21) He visited Africa. He had also been conferred with title Doyen in the History by Orissa by the History Congress.

22) He started his literary and journalistic career as far back as 1924. He published and edited The Prajatantra as a weekly in 1924 from Balasore. However, it became a daily in 1947 after indepedence.

23) He is the Founder-Chairman of The Prajatantra Prachar Samity which now publishes the daily, The Prajatantra in Oriya and two monthly literary journals. (The Jhankaar since 1949 known for its literary heritage and the Childrens' journal, The Meenabazar.) He was the Chief Editor of the Jhankaar.

24) He received the Kendriya Sahitya Academi Award in 1983 for his book, "Gaon Majlis".

25) He has 22 books in English and Oriya to his credit, including five fictions, a collection of short stories and an anthology of one-act plays. Considered as an authority on Orissa History. He has two volumes of Orissa History, in both Oriya and English to his credit, which were written during his imprisonment in Ahmednagar Fort.

26) Very recently, he has written and published his memoir entitled "WHILE SERVING MY NATION"-Recollections of a Congress man."

27) It is for his untimely death on the 2nd January 1987, the 3rd part of his auto-biography was left unfinished and two other novels which he had worked upon also could not see the light of the day.

—*—

महताव-नक्षत्रमाला

(१)

सदा प्रशान्तो महतां वरेण्यः
त्वं कर्मयोगी महताव ! धन्यः ।
ख्यातो भवानुत्कल-केशरीति
कदापि कस्मादपि ते न भीतिः ॥

Oh Dr. Mahatab, tranquility was the dominant characteristic of your psychological constitution. You were highly honoured by the towering personalities of your own days. You were a Karma-Yogee. You concentrated always on purposeful action. Yours was a life of commendations indeed ! You were widely known as "Utkala-Keshari" or the lion of Orissa. At no time of your life did you fear anybody. You never surrendered to anybody due to intimidation.

(२)

धर्मात्मनो भारत-गौरवस्य
शिखाग्रपूज्यस्य च नानकस्य ।
वंशे पवित्रे तव जन्म वाढं
त्वच्चिन्तनं देशकृते प्रगाढम् ॥

You belonged to the holy dynasty of (Guru) Nanak who was the embodiment of religiosity, the pride and glory of Bharata-Varsha and the top-most reverential person among the sikhs. You were deeply thinking about your country (i. e., Bharata, with regard to its manifold-development)

(३)

त्वमेव पूर्वार्जित–पुण्यभावैः
जातः प्रसिद्धोऽखिल-भारते वै ।
प्रियाऽपि ते भाग्यवती सुभद्रा
त्वत्कर्म-जालेषु च साऽतिभद्रा ॥

It is on account of "Punya" (the sum-total effect of noble deeds) accumulated from your previous birth that you could become famous in the whole of India. Subhadra Devi was fortunate enough to be your spouse. In all your activities, she was immensely helpful to you.

(४)

श्रत्रोत्कले ते त्वतुलं हि मानं
त्वमेव योग्यं तव चोपमानम् ।
यथाऽन्तरीक्षं गगनस्य किं वा
महासमुद्रस्य महोदधिर्वा ॥

In the State of Orissa, the respect that you commanded was incomparable. Excepting your own self, there was none else in Orissa who could stand in comparison with you. Just as, it is only the firmament that can be compared with itself in a fitting manner or just as, the ocean can be the only object of comparison with itself (i. e., the ocean), likewise, you were the only person (in Orissa) who could stand in comparison with your own-self.

(५)

त्वं केन्द्रमन्त्री किल राज्यपालो
वम्बे-प्रदेशे, निज–राज्य–मध्ये ।
वारद्वयं शंसित-मुख्य-मन्त्री
ततः प्रतीतं विपुलं यशस्ते ॥

You were a Minister of the Union Government. You were also the Governor of Bombay. In your own State (i. e., Orissa), you were the respected Chief Minister for two terms. Vast indeed was your reputation !

(६)

वैदेशिकानां पदलांछितस्य
स्व-जन्म-देशस्य च भारतस्य ।
विमुक्तये त्वं समरे प्रविष्टः
संग्रामिरूपेण हि सुप्रतिष्ठः ॥

India, your mother-land was groaning under the wheels of oppression (during British rule in India). You had participated actively in the 'struggle for the freedom of India' (under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi). Your reputation as a 'Freedom-fighter' has been well established.

(७)

त्वं राजनीति-व्रतती-प्रफुल्ल-
प्रसून-पुञ्जे भ्रमरः प्रमत्तः ।
साहित्य कुञ्जे कल-कोकिलश्च
स्मरन्ति नित्यं कवयो गुणं ते ॥

If politics is likened to a creeper bedecked with a bunch of fully-bloosmed flowers, you might be described as a bumble-bee, deeply attracted towards it. In the bower of literature, you were like a cuckoo, ever engaged in singing songs melodiously. Poets (of Orissa) remember you always for your admirable qualities of literary activities and organisations.

(८)

संगीत-चित्रादि-कला-प्रसक्तः
त्वं वै कलाकार-गुणानुरक्तः ।
उत्साहदाता कवि-पण्डितानां
गवेषकाणामितिह–प्रियाणाम् ॥

Your appreciation for music, painting and similar other arts was deep indeed. You had great admiration for the meritorious achievements of the artists in general. You were a perennial source of inspiration for the poets, the pundits, the research-scholars and the students of history (in its widest sense).

(६)

साहित्य-सृष्टिस्तव चित्रशाला
तथेतिहासादिकृति-विशाला ।
सम्मेलनं ते "विषुवं" वरिष्ठं
तद्वै बुधानां मिलनं गरिष्ठम् ।

Your own literary creations look like an art-gallery. Your contributions to the field of historical researches are extensive. (Every year and on the appropriate date) you had been holding the Vishuva-Sammelan in a grand scale and this (cultural platform or forum) was basically your own creation. In fact, this was a vast cogregation of scholars (engaged in the various fields of literary and cultural activities) of Orissa.

(१०)

त्वं वै कविस्त्वं च निबन्धकारः
कथाऽदिकारोऽपि च नाट्यकारः ।
तवेतिहासश्च कलिङ्गजानां
लब्धादरो वै बुध-दिग्गजानाम् ॥

You were a poet, an essayist, a fiction-writer and a dramatist too. Your History of Orissa (which is perhaps your magnum opus) has been accepted by the eminent historians (as a standard and scholarly work on the subject).

(११)

पत्रं "प्रजातन्त्र"-मतीव सार्थं
प्रकाशितं देश-निषेवणार्थम् ।
"झंकार"-पत्रं तव मानसं तु
पुत्रं चिरं तत्र बुधा विशन्तु ॥

You had founded the 'Prajaatantra' with a view to serving the people of Orissa. As a daily paper, it was a meaningful creation. The 'Jhankaar' (the well-known oriya monthly magazine) born out of your creative thinking, should continue to attract the writers and scholars of the State (as was the case during your life-time).

(१२)

एकाडेमीनां प्रथमोहि कर्त्ता
वाल्येहि तेषां बहुरोगहर्त्ता ।
म्यूजीयमस्याऽपि च भूतिदाता
क्रीडास्थलानां त्वमिहैव धाता ॥

You were the founder of the three State Akademies (namely, The Orissa Sahitya Akademi, The Orissa Sangeet Natak Akademi and the Orissa Lalit Kalaa Akademi) and you had redressed their grievances to a great extent at the initial stage of their inception. You had substancially contributed to the resourcefulness of the Orissa state Museum (Bhubaneswar), You were the chief architect of many stadiums, gymnasiums etc., (including the Hirakud dam) in Orissa.

(१३)

सभापतिस्त्व शतशः सभासु
प्रशंसितो वाग्विभवाच्च तासु ।
राज्यस्य स्वल्पेषु च पण्डितेषु
त्वमग्रगण्यो पदमण्डितेषु ॥

You had presided lover hundreds of meetings and conferences. The excellence of your speeches evoked the heart-felt admiration of huge audiences. You were one of the few top-ranking scholars (of Orissa) with high social status.

(१४)

शिक्षाविदासीश्च बहिः स्थितोऽपि
शिक्षा–प्रसाराय सदा प्रवृत्तः ।
आमोड़िआवाङ्मय-संस्कृतीनां
मानाभिवृद्धौ चिरचिन्तितस्त्वम् ॥
(आम्-स्वीकृति सूचकं)

Though you were not in the actual field of teaching (either in a school or in a college), still, you were an educationist. You were always keen on the spread of education. Yes, you were deeply thinking about the ways and means of elevating the standard of oriya literature and the various types of culture prevailing in the different parts of Orissa.

(१५)

आसीत्प्रयत्नस्तव संस्कृतस्य
सेवां हि कर्त्तुं चिरममृतस्य ।
कदा कदा संस्कृत–भाषणेन
त्वं नन्दितोऽभूर्जन-तोषणेन ॥

You had taken pains to study Sanskrit, the language of the Gods. On some occasions, you had delivered speeches in Sanskrit too and had evoked the admiration of the people who felt 'feasted and fed' by them.

(१६)

मनस्त्वदीयं त्वनुराग-पुष्टं
चेतो विलासैर्गुणिनां च तुष्टम् ।
चक्रं रिपूणां सततं विनिष्टं
तत्तेप्रियं यन्नवता-विशिष्टम् ॥

You mind pulsated with affection (for the people). The achievements of the meritorious people always filled your sensorium with immense joy. The conspiracies of your adversaries ended invariably in failure. Such things, thoughts and theories as sparkeled with an element of novelty or originality appealed to your sense of appreciation very much and drew your attention towards them.

(१७)

यथा त्वमत्यन्त–प्रसिद्धनामा
तथा हि सेवा तव चान्यवामा ।
ये याचकास्ते त्वयि सिद्धकामाः
वाक्चातुरी ते परमाभिरामा ॥

Just as you attained high reputation (in Orissa for your multifarious activities), likewise, 'Sevaa' (service for the amilioration of the living-standards of the people) followed you always as your second spouse. The longings or the desideratum of the people who approached you for your kindness and sympathy could be fulfilled by you. Your ways of expression of ideas appealed very much to the minds of the people (to whom you spoke).

(१८)

सत्याग्रहे चाऽसहयोग–पीठे
कारागृहे प्राच्य–विदां समाजे
नेतृत्व-सृष्टौ नव-राजधानी-
निर्माणकार्यादिषु तत्परस्त्वम् ॥

You had participated actively in the Satyaagraha Movement and also in the non-violent non-cooperation movement (launched against the British Government under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi). You had been thrown behind the prison bars (during your fight against the British). On the other hand, you were in close association with the orientalists (in as much as a session of the All-India Oriental Conference was held at Bhubaneswar through your efforts). You had also laid your hands firmly on the foundation and expansion of the New Capital of Orissa (Bhubaneswar) and also on many other projects (like the famous Hirakud dam)

(१६)

समाज-संस्कार-विधौ च यज्ञे
सूत्रात्मके जाति–विभेद-लोपे ।
दुःखस्य नाशे च हरेर्जनानां
सदा प्रवृत्तिस्तव निर्द्धनानाम् ॥

You were seriously engaged in social reforms, in the extensive use of Charkha or the spinning wheel (to provide clothing materials to the people), in the eradication of social discriminations (based on the caste-system) and also in redressing the grievances of the Harijanas, who sufferd a lot due to their deplorable pecuniary conditions.

(२०)

सुदीर्घकालं न हि राजकीया
शक्तिः करे ते बहुशस्तथापि ।
जनास्त्वदीयं भवनं हि गत्वा
न्यवेदयन् सर्वमसौख्यजालम् ॥

For a long time (1963-87) you did not have with you either administrative or executive powers (of Govt.). But still, people, without numbers, used to congregate at your residence (i.e., The Ekaamra Nivaas at Bhubaneswar) only to implore your mercy to get rid of their official, social or individual troubles or difficulties.

(२१)

एकाम्र-पीठे रुचिरो निवास
"एकाम्र"-नामा परिशोभते ते ।
आसीच्च तीर्थं स्मरणीयमेतत्
स राजनीति-प्रविदां जनानाम् ॥

Your residential house, known as the Ekaamra Nivaas, stands even now in the old town of Bhubaneswar with all its sublimity and serenity. It should not be forgotten that for all those who were either politicians or persons closely associated with politics, your residence was like a "Centre of Pilgrimage" for religious-minded men and women a place which they used to visit frequently (only for your consultation and advise).

(२२)

श्रीमज्जगन्नाथ-प्रभोर्हि तत्त्वं
विचिन्त्य नानामतवाद-दृष्ट्या ।
व्यलेखि एकान्तप्रमाण-पूर्णं
निवन्धसारं सुमनोरमं च ॥

You have written a highly valuable and interesting monograph on Lord Jagannatha. Before writing this, you had deeply pondered over the tenets of the cult of Jagannatha after you had studied, with care, the various theories adduced by the scholars in the field regarding the Lord. Your deductions (on the various aspects of the Lord) are based on documentary evidences.

(२३)

श्री-सारलादासकवेः पुराणं
रम्यं महाभारतमद्वितीयम् ।
सुसंस्कृतं कारितमेव नूनं
स्वमातृ-साहित्य-प्रचारणार्थम् ॥

Sarala Dasa (सारला दास) (the first great Oriya poet of mid-15th century) wrote the "Oriya Mahabharata" in puranic style. In addition to its being a fine piece of literature, it is perhaps second to none(among the Mahabharatas written in the provincial languages of India as regards its volume (or length), In order to highlight the greatness of your mother-tongue Oriya, you took steps to prepare a fresh recension of the Mahabharata (and got it done by Prof. A. B. Mohanty, a most reputed scholar of Orissa and an authority on old Oriya literature).

(२४)

अहो ! "प्रजातन्त्र"-शरीर-शोभी
लेखस्त्वदीयो हि पुरष्कृतश्च ।
रसाप्लुतो "गाँ-मजलीश"-नामा
दिल्लीस्थितैकाडमि-पक्षतो वै ॥

It is a matter of great delight that you were contributing a series of articles to the "Prajaatantra" under the caption-'Gaon Majalis'. They added ·substantially to the charm of the daily paper as they were written in a style that could inculcate a desire in the readers to enjoy them. The articles (published subsequently in some volumes) have received the National Sahitya Akademi (New Delhi) Award ('प्रजातन्त्र' - famous daily that he was editing.

(२५)

पिता तवासीद्-बहुयज्ञकारः
त्वज्जीवने तस्य फलं हि लब्धम् ।
पुत्रस्य ते भर्त्तृहरेः प्रकामं
भूयाद् विकाशो तत्र कीर्त्तिभिश्च ॥

Your father (being highly religious-minded) performed a number of sacrifices. The effects of those sacrifices (as per the traditional belief) have found reflection in your own life. Accordingly, let the effects of your noble and glorious deeds find reflection in the life of your son, (Shri) Bhartruhari (Mahatab) and make him live 'a life of achievements'.

(२६)

गम्भीर–मूर्त्तिस्तव रुद्ररूपा
ब्रह्मेव च त्वं बहु-सृष्टि-शक्तः ।
प्रशासने त्वं खलु विष्णुरूपो
कलास्त्रिमूर्त्तेस्त्वयि दीप्यमानाः ॥

The powers of the Cosmic Trio (of the Hindus)-namely, Lord Brahmaa (the Creator), Lord Vishnu (the sustainer) and Lord Siva alias Rudra, the destroyer) found expression in you to a certain degree (or in the limited sense of the terms). The quality of Lord Rudra found reflection in your physical stature which was grave and solemn, that of Lord Brahmaa found expression in your creative activities and, finally, that of Lord Vishnu, expressed itself in the due discharge of your administrative duties and functions.

(२७)

भीतिप्रदः सर्वविनाशिकाल
स्तथापि कीर्त्तिश्चिर-जीविनीति ।
वदन्ति लोकाः, सुयशोमयेन
देहेन जीया भुवने चिरं त्वम् ॥

Time is terrific : it consumes everything (in the phenomenal universe). But still, people say that the reputation of a person for his noble deeds remains beyond the purview of Time's destructive powers. Therefore, you continue to live long in the world with the body of your 'name and fame' arising out of your noble-deeds (in the various walks of life).

BOOKS BY Dr. H. K. MAHATAB

१ प्रतिभा (उपन्यास)
२ टाउटर (उपन्यास)
३ अव्यापार (उपन्यास)
४ नूतनधर्म (उपन्यास)
५ तृतीयपर्व (उपन्यास)
६ १९७५ (उपन्यास)
७ साधनारपथे (आत्मजीवन)
८ दशवर्षरओडिशा
९ स्वर्गरे एमर्जेन्सि
१० साहित्य ओ आलोचना
११ युग सङ्केत
१२ पलासी अवसाने (कविता)
१३ शेश अश्रु (कविता)
१४ आनन्द सन्धाने (कविता)
१५ ओड़िशा इतिहास (१म ओ २य भाग)
१६ गान्धि ओ ओड़िशा
१७ Beginning of the End.
१८ Gandhi the Poiltical Leader.
१९ Call to Action.
२० History of Orissa (vol. I & vol II)
२१ While seving my Nation.
२२ गाँ मजलिस् (१म, २य, ३य, ४र्थ ओ पञ्चमखण्ड)

(Nos : 1-16 and No. 22 Seventeen books in Oriya The rest in English)

कवि-परिचयः

(अष्टादश-विद्या-धुरीणानां स्वर्गत-पण्डित-प्रवर-
श्रीचन्द्रशेखरब्रह्मणां ज्येष्ठपुत्रः)

प्रोफेसर गौरीकुमारब्रह्मा M.A., D.Ed. At present Professor and Head of the Dept. of Tourism and Travel Management, Reg. College of Management, P.o. Bhubaneswar; Director, S.K. Post Graduate (Oriya) Coaching Centre, Bhubaneswar-2 and President, Vishva Sanskrit Pratisthanam (Orissa Branch) etc. Formerly (इतः प्राक्) विभिन्न महाविद्यालयेषु ओडिआप्राध्यापकः ओडिशा सर्वकाराणां Chief Tourist Guide, Deputy Director, Tourism; Deputy Director, Culture (Orissa Govt.), ओडिआ-अंग्रेज-संस्कृतादि भाषासु अर्द्धशताधिक-(प्रकाशित)- ग्रन्थानां लेखकः; भारताभ्यन्तरे भारताद् बहिश्च भारतीय-साहित्य-संस्कृति-धर्मादीनां प्रचारकः ओडिआ-अंग्रेज-संस्कृत-भाषासु षट्सहस्राधिक (मौखिक) भाषणानां प्रदाता (१९४०-१९८८ मध्ये)। राज्य-साहित्य संगीतनाटक ललितकला इति अकदमि त्रितयस्य सचिवः (इत्यादि

लब्धोपाध्यायः — १) उत्कल-वाचस्पतिः, २) वाग्मी-प्रवरः, ३) साहित्यमार्तण्डः ४) विद्वन्-मानसमरालः, ५) उत्कल भारती, ६) पुरुष-सरस्वती, ७) कोकिलकण्ठः, ८) पर्यटन-विशारदः।

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